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Amazing Animals
Fact sheets

Elephants

Elephant's trunks are extremely unique, giving them the ability to reach the ground; manipulate very small objects or tear down huge tree limbs; squirt water over their backs or into their mouths; or blow dirt onto their backs during dust baths. Their wide padded feet enable them to walk quietly.

Asian Elephant

The Asian Elephant is an endangered species with only 30,000 to 40,000 individuals left in the wild. They are found in fourteen different countries throughout South-east Asia and surrounds. Asian Elephants can live to sixty years-old in the wild, and up to eighty years in captivity. They can stand anywhere from two-to-three metres high and weigh a whopping two-to-five tonne. There are three sub-species of Asian Elephant; the Mainland or Indian Elephant, the Sri-Lankan Elephant (largest) and the Sumatran Elephant, which is the smallest.

Habitat

Asian Elephants are large grey mammals inhabiting a variety of tropical forest habitats, adjoining grasslands and scrub in South-East Asia, Sri Lanka, and Sumatra. Their grey colouration camouflages them in their shady habitat.

Diet

Among the largest herbivores in the world, Asian Elephants’ dexterous trunk and large molars enable them to gather and process up to 150kg of vegetation per day, including grasses, leaves, fruit, farm crops and bark. Elephants do not drink with their trunks; they use them as 'tools' to drink with. Consuming up to 200 litres of water each day, an Asian Elephant will fill its trunk with water, and then pour the water into its mouth.

Breeding

Male Asian Elephants are predominantly solitary animals; however they can also live in bachelor groups. They will only associate with females to breed. Female Asian Elephants will attract several males when she is ready to breed. The bulls use the tusks and their vast strength to fight for victory. Once the dominant male has won the chance to breed, he stays close to the female to warn-off other males. The gestation period for an Asian Elephant is 22 months. At birth, an Asian Elephant calf weighs approximately 100kg. During the birthing process, female Asian Elephants will support each other with vocalisations. The elders of the herd will stand close to protect the vulnerable mother and newborn calf from predators. The calf remains with its mother for five years.

Australia Zoo Asian Elephant profiles

Sabu

Sabu is a very obedient and loyal elephant whose nature is very different from the others. Sabu can be rather moody and likes to keep to herself, not often seeking attention. She is very family oriented and is more dependent on the other elephants in her life. Sabu is extremely playful, and just like the other elephants, loves to play in the mud. It is usually the red mud she chooses to roll around in, so don't be concerned when you see our red elephants- they really are grey underneath! Sabu is the greedy guts of the three, and if there is any hay left over, you can be sure Sabu will clean it up.

Endangered Species!

Very low numbers are left in the wild. Elephants are at risk of extinction within the next ten years.

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